



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SHEILA KUEHL
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
56-A.		Favor	Dennis Hunter	<p>I'm in favor of the County investing in Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (Nidorf) so that it serves as the location housing Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) youth, thereby becoming an example of transformative youth justice in Los Angeles County.</p> <p>The County should transform Nidorf so that it houses DJJ youth post adjudication and not just pre-adjudication, which is the case now. This makes the most sense because the DJJ youth are already there. DJJ youth are detained at Nidorf while going through the court process, from start to finish. Another reason that Nidorf makes sense is the support and continuity it provides. Nidorf is the only option with the least disruption to continuity of service and programming. As you may know, establishing routines, minimizing changes, and offering stability is a best practice. Staff at Nidorf are also better trained and equipped to support the youths' progress throughout their commitment time.</p> <p>Investing in Nidorf also makes sense fiscally and programmatically. The County should take the bold and imaginative step to join Nidorf to Kilpatrick under the "LA Model". This is the County's chance to reimagine and renovate a site that has been the subject of great controversy – the very reason why the County has pledged to change its approach to juvenile justice. Reimagine as many problematic juvenile confinement sites as possible – not just one of them. Furthermore, the County must renovate Nidorf so that it's suitable to confine minors, as declared by the CA Board of State and Community Corrections. Renovations and changes are already identified and documented. Additionally, transforming Nidorf at this time is an efficient use of valuable resources that meets state requirements, including the state's new requirement for the County to house DJJ youth. It's simply a better use of taxpayer funds. Lastly, most youth in our juvenile justice system – not just DJJ youth – spend years in Nidorf, as opposed to months when sent to the County's camps. Selecting Nidorf benefits the youth for their entire commitment time, not just for a short period of time. It's the best long-term, strategic solution that helps the most youth.</p>



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56-A.		Favor	Joy Murakami	<p>14 March 2022</p> <p>Board of Supervisors Los Angeles County</p> <p>Regarding: Board of Supervisors Meeting on 15 March 2022, Agenda Items 10 and 56A</p> <p>OPPOSITION to Item 10</p> <p>SUPPORT of Item 56A</p> <p>Supervisors,</p> <p>I am a tax-paying resident of supervisory district 5 and have lived in Saugus for 26 years. The principal reason I moved here was the safety aspect of this city.</p> <p>I am supportive of the rehabilitation efforts of juvenile justice system, however, it needs to take place while taking into account the safety and security of not only incarcerated youths, but also the surrounding population. In addition, any renovations required are being paid for by taxpayers and you have a responsibility to make sure our money is being spent in the most responsible manner and allowing for the most benefit.</p> <p>I fully support the Probation Department's 8 February 2022 proposal to proceed with Barry J Nidorf as the most suitable permanent facility to house the incarcerated youth population. Some of the reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Best possible centralized location with easy freeway access- Lower costs to make it a high quality facility to best serve the needs of the proposed population- The space allows for future capacity requirements <p>I strongly oppose using Camp Scott. Some of the reasons are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Location is inconvenient to service providers and families (poor freeway access, high traffic area)- Old and outdated facilities would require significantly higher costs to update- Capacity is too small to allow for future requirements- Located in a known fire and flood hazard area <p>The probation department has stated that Camp Scott is not suitable. They are the subject experts.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to vote NO on items 10 and vote YES on item 56A.</p> <p>Joy Murakami</p>
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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
56-A.		Favor	Joy Ory	My letter of support is attached.
			Joy Ory	<p>The original submitted attachment was NOT published. So, here it is below:</p> <p>I'm a County resident of Supervisory District 5. We relocated to Santa Clarita in 1989, after experiencing crime in the San Fernando Valley. Our desire was to raise our family in a safe environment where we would not feel endangered while in our own home and surrounding community. It takes time to recover once you have been a victim, and the experience always remains with you. It doesn't go away, not ever.</p> <p>Change happens, and it is important to embrace change for the right reasons. The juvenile justice of the past has had minimal success when it comes to rehabilitation to re-enter society. The push by those who have experienced the incarceration system are actively driving change. A balance of enhanced efforts for rehabilitation and protection of society must occur.</p> <p>How can the cycle of repeat offenders and committing serious crimes against persons change? I believe accountability and consequences are necessary for people to learn from their choices and actions. I can only hope the new approach will prove to have a positive impact.</p> <p>I support reimagining juvenile justice and implementing the LA Model in a thoughtful and practical manner. However, there are no guarantees for success of this new approach. Ongoing evaluation and adjustment of the new approach will be a necessity to ensure improvement in the County's efforts toward rehabilitation are achievable.</p> <p>At a recent Public Safety Cluster meeting, Probation staff indicated other California Counties have inquired about LA County housing their DJJ population. My opinion is absolutely NOT at this time. Implement the programmatic activities of the LA Model, and focus on the LA County incarcerated population.</p> <p>The cost of care for those persons being returned to Los Angeles County must be recognized as a burden to actual taxpayers. The JJCC-JJR Block Grant funding from the State of California is a line-item in the State's General Fund budget, almost exclusively funded by those individuals who actually pay income taxes.</p>

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I fully support the Probation Department's February 8, 2022 proposal to proceed with Barry J Nidorf as the most suitable permanent SYTF. The Department's presentation document illustrates the renovations to move forward to a state of the art facility. Both documents are included with Agenda Item 56A and should be thoroughly read by each member of the Board of Supervisors before voting on this important issue. Moving forward with Barry J as the permanent SYTF presents a win win for the incarcerated population and communities of Los Angeles County for the following reasons:
Barry J can be reimagined into a high quality facility to help offenders prepare for re-entry into society
There is plenty of space to meet capacity needs without impacting the current delivery of services to those already there
It's centrally located - this is critical for DJJ families and service providers
Proceeding with Barry J is the most fiscally prudent solution
The changes at Barry J can be done timely

Moving forward with Camp Scott plain and simple does NOT make any sense
The location isn't suitable to providing the necessary services due to distance
It was built in the 1950's and is severely outdated and hasn't been maintained
Reimagined, Scott can provide for a capacity of 40 - that's only 27% of what is needed
Why spend even more tax payer dollars on facilities that don't meet capacity requirements?

The Probation Department and their service providers are professionals and subject matter experts. Listen to them. Support and embrace their experience, findings and proposal.

Regardless, renovation of Barry J is required by the State of California. How can we pass up the opportunity to do what is right for both the incarcerated population and the community at large?

As elected officials you are obligated to comply with the State legislation that is the impetus for your decision. The spirit and intent language of SB823's legislative purpose is to "protect society from the consequences of criminal activity".

I prevail upon each of you to vote NO on Item 10 and vote YES on Item 56A.

It's NOT about what Barry J has been, it's about what Barry J can become to serve the full complement of the DJJ population - make it happen, there is no acceptable excuse or rationalization NOT to.



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Julie Hunter	I am in favor of agenda item 56-A to adopt the Probation Department's recommendation to use Barry J. Nidorf as the permanent location for Secure Track Youth. The proposal by the county's subject matter experts addresses concerns from various stakeholders, strategically uses existing facilities, is a more fiscally-responsible option, and seizes the opportunity to reimagine and transform a site that has been the subject of great controversy. The proposal and presentation are convincing that Nidorf is a feasible solution to house DJJ youth. Thank you, Supervisor Barger, for proposing this motion and for informing the public of the Probation Department's efforts to recommend a solution of the most appropriate location to house DJJ youth. IN FAVOR.
Kevin Bell	Housing DJJ youth at Nidorf is the best use of the taxpayers money. Camps Scott and Scudder would need extensive renovations and capital to bring up to date and code. Housing the prisoners in a residential area with schools nearby is unwise. The county's report gave this site a low ranking in comparison to the other facilities. Nidorf is your opportunity to reimagine juvenile justice to your liking since it is already required for updates. I urge the board to vote for Nidorf as the location site.
Kimberly Green	From a location perspective, Nidorf makes the most sense for a permanent SYTF. It's close to freeways, public transportation, community colleges, vocational training, hospitals, resources for mental health, drug abuse, & sexual abuse. The awful things that have happened at Nidorf have to do with management practices at this site and can be fixed going forward. Nidorf is the most convenient and fiscally responsible of all possible locations. Please invest in the reimagination of Nidorf and remove camps in heavily residential areas from further consideration. Thank you.
KYUANE S MCKIBBINS	I strongly oppose with using Barry J. Nidorf as a Permanent location for Secure Track Youth, reason being is Nidorf is not structured to be a rehabilitative environment for young people.
Linda Desrosiers	I support Supervisor Barger's recommendation to use Nidorf as the Permanent Location for STY.
Masis Hagobian	
Monique Yateem	I am asking the Board to vote NO on housing these DJJ young adults at local camps, which are outdated and provide minimal security. I absolutely support providing these young adults opportunities to rehabilitate, although this needs to be done in a secure environment given the gravity of there crimes. It would be profoundly irresponsible to house these young adults in poorly secured camps (Paige/Afflerbaugh) putting local communities at risk. BJNJH can be reimagined and can be made into a campus like setting with all the appropriate security needed to keep everyone safe. Thank you. Monique Yateem
noreen tilton	
Pamela Berry	My name is Pam Berry speaking on Item 10, 56-A & general public comment. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for your consideration. I support the selection of Camp Kirkpatrick and Barry J Nidorf as amended by Barger &



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	<p>Solis and the amendment requesting exclusion of Paige, Afflerbaugh and I would add Scott from future consideration.</p> <p>If there are no people, or in this case, our youth that are beyond rehabilitation then there is just as much value in reimagining a place and making Barry J Nidorf into something that sets a new standard for treating youth in a way that redeems both the site and the youth that come to it. With more than half of the youth and their families coming from the City of Los Angeles and locations west of Los Angeles, Secure Youth Treatment Facilities on the far east of the County would be disruptive for all parties, including the youth, their families, staff and County resources.</p> <p>I believe Camp Kilpatrick and Barry J. Nidorf are better suited locations to serve as permanent Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF). Kilpatrick itself was previously studied and recommended as a logical choice to place this heightened level of clientele. The site's infrastructure is already secure and set up to offer a "care first" model, which is consistent with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) goals. As such, we support the recommendation as it is related to this location. Kirkpatrick & Nidorf as the best options for the youth and for the use of our taxpayer dollars. Thank you for your time.</p>
Peggy Cherry	
Roy G Marson	<p>I am a resident of Saugus Bouquet Canyon where 2500 people live. I am a representative of the Bouquet Canyon Network. We are on the opposite side of Camps Scott/Scutter from the City of SCV. We agree with the City of Santa Clarita that the abandoned camps are not the place for a MS 13 Training Camp.</p> <p>We highly recommend Barry Nidoff Camp which can be changed to help these defiant youth into being productive Americans. It is in a good central location in the San Fernando Valley. Let's do this! Roy Marson</p> <p>I have owned my ranch since 1973. We welcomed and worked with the Camps. My good friend and Priest Father ED Renehan of St. Claire's Parish developed visitation programs to work with the kids who were being trained in the acceptable ways of life. We used to laugh when one of the young men would somehow escape and running up Bouquet Creek with a very able bodied counselor on their tail.</p> <p>Now Camps Scutter and Scott have been abandoned. Why?</p>
Ruth Tyson	It save money, its already there. Refurbish the facility and make it work.
Ruth Tyson	Save money and keep our community safe. Refurbish the facility you have. Listen to the tax paying citizens.
Sarah Rawson	
Sean Kramer	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Sean Kramer and I am a resident of Santa Clarita. I wanted to</p>



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voice my strong opposition to agenda item 10 that would ultimately consider Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility for juvenile males. The prospect of converting this dilapidated camp to a new secure facility is ultimately fiscally irresponsible when there are clearly better options on the table that need to be explored.

Agenda item 56-A lays out the re-imagining of the Barry J. Nidorf facility which would be ideal on so many levels. The first is that the facility is currently housing a certain population of youth today and there's no denying that this facility is in dire need of some improvements. To better serve the current population and also allow for the additional youth, up to the 150 estimated, Barry J. provides the necessary footprint to help our youth succeed and minimize tax payer burden to fund this project.

In addition to this Barry J. is centrally located to many families and even employees who are already working with this facility and working out of this facility. Do we really want to risk adding an additional burden of travel to those impacted by this just to see their loved ones? I think not. Rehabilitating youth needs to involve a location that is ideal and accessible to allow visitation – Barry J. is the right option here.

Over the years this facility has gotten a bad reputation, and rightfully so. We need to evaluate what we have today and fix what is in place instead of trying to expand the footprint of juvenile facilities at the expense of those who need our help the most.

We expect the county to be good stewards of tax payer funds, so please show us that commitment.

Please vote against agenda item 10 and vote in favor of 56-A.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Kramer

Stan Murakami

Barry J Nidorf in Sylmar is the best location for incarcerated youth. It is centrally located and convenient to 3 major freeways. it would be a much better use of taxpayer money to refurbish and allows for future needs to be met.

Tim Ory

My letter in support of Item 56-A is attached.

Tracy Gonzales

Barry J. Nidorf can be physically changed to meet the reimagined needs of the youth-just like Kilpatrick was. Walls and physical conditions can be changed-and moving forward and changing the physical things will give you time and \$\$ to look at the real issues-the treatment and direction you want to go t help these youth be rehabilitated.



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Oppose	Addison K Tippitt	Barry J is a horrific facility for youth. There is no way it can be reimagined. Do better!
	Alejandro Banuelos	
	alexia cina	
	Anil Kakani	I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's motion to make Barry J the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board members to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J. I Oppose Item 56 A.
	Beni Benitez	
	Bernadette Gholami	Please refer to item 10! Barry J does not meet the values of Youth Justice Reimagined.
	Betty Fang	
	Bhawrilal Kakani	
	Carlos Cervantes	As a teenager, now 37 years of age, I was incarcerated at Barry J. Nidorf. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter-motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison-like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.
	Casey Massimino	Barry J should NEVER be a location - not temporary, not permanent. There is no way it can be reimagined.
	Chloe Cheney-Rice	Hi my name is Chloe Cheney-Rice and I live in Pasadena - district #5. I am a staff member of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and I am calling to let you know that I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action.
	Chloe Thomas	
	Christopher Bingley	
	Damon Ayala	Barry J Nidorf has never been and never will be appropriate for the vision of Youth Justice Reimagined! Time has shown that, time for something new!
	David R Morales	Hi my name is David Morales and I live in Palmdale, CA. I am an employee of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and I am calling to let you know I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the



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	Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.
Deborah Marxen	<p>It is my opinion that the proposal by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuel to use Camp Scott in Saugus as the permanent location for the Secure Youth Treatment Facility is not in the best interest of the youth that will be incarcerated there. I have listened to many meetings where members from the ARC have talked about the support they receive from family and loved ones being able to visit. Camp Scott is not a convenient location. It is not near either the 14 or 5 freeways or metro-link stations. The drive from the freeway takes a minimum of 20 minutes depending on traffic and the metro-link stations are about the same. It is my understanding that you have physically visited Camp Scott. Have you considered staff or family having to commute to this location on a regular basis? Not only the amount of time but the cost of gas and increased carbon footprint. You would be placing these youth and young adults far from the resources that they should be provided with. Camp Scott and Camp Scudder were built in the early 60's and would require starting literally from scratch in order to meet the criteria for the state of the art facility envisioned. The time and expense involved don't make sense. You would also be responsible for placing these youth in a fire and flood zone, which if I am reading the proposal correctly, you have been asked to disregard the environmental issues. You are aware of this from studies conducted and presented to you. This is a real problem and we have seen how neighborhoods in canyon areas throughout California have been devastated by wildfires, keeping in mind that we have only one road out. Evacuation in any disaster would be a nightmare. As residents, we have made the choice to live here, but you will be making the choice of placing this youth population in a potentially dangerous situation. I urge you to please take these things in to consideration when you vote on Tuesday.</p> <p>The alternative presented by Supervisor Barger to use Barry J Nidorf, if only due to it's location, is by far the better decision. It is close to freeways, public transportation, community colleges, vocational training schools, UCLA Olive View Hospital, Providence Holy Cross Hospital, medical facilities and resources for drug abuse, sexual abuse and mental health. I know that awful things happened at Barry J Nidorf and we are now hearing of the abuse that took place at Camp Scott, but that is the fault of very poor management and staffing on the part of the Los Angeles County Probation Department. This location is fiscally more responsible and more convenient for all involved. Put the money and effort into re-imaging, repairing and even re-naming Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall to reach your goals as a model for a state of the art secure youth facility.</p> <p>Sincerely, Deborah Marxen Saugus</p>



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Delos Moore	The County should not invest in creating new jails or new systems of punishment for youth. As someone who spent 14 years incarcerated, I can confidently say that punishment, oppressing people, dehumanizing, and simply putting them in cages and confinement does not address the roots causes of any problem and issues. We need to invest in real solutions and comprehensive answers.
Elida Ledesma	No to Barry J! This is not an adequate facility for any young person. This is the moment to say NO and truly lean into the care first values.
Emilio Zapien	I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's motion to make Barry J the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board members to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J. I Oppose Item 56 A.
Erika Lee	I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's motion to make Barry J the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board members to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J.
Ezekiel Nishiyama	
Gabriela Cruz	
Gladis Pantoja	LA County should not invest in new jails, this should be a care first, jails last county.
Gloria Gonzalez	There is NOTHING about selecting Barry J as an SYTF that is aligned with Youth Justice Reimagined. It is difficult for the county to allocate funding towards ending youth incarceration and spending funding to alter Barry J does not make it suitable. Put youth First.
hazel kleingrove	
Hazel R Kleingrove	I Oppose Item 56 A.
Hemlata Kakani	
Jackie Pacheco	
Jaya Duckworth	There is no way Barry J. can be reimagined!
Jeremy Bocel	Dont invest in new jails.
Jessie Simental	
Joseph A Osorio	
Judith Verduzco	I strongly oppose agenda item 56A, Kathryn Barger's counter motion to make



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	Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.
Kent Mendoza	<p>Hi my name is Kent Mendoza and I'm the Manager of Policy at the Anti-Recidivism Coalition in Los Angeles County. I'm here to support item 10 by supervisors Kuehl and Mitchell. As someone that has served time in all of LA County's Juvenile halls and the state DJJ prisons for a total of 5 years from the ages of 15 - 20, I know from first-hand experience being in these types of places, from working in the community for the past 8 years since coming home, that all the tools of punishment and confinement do not work nor do they address the roots of issues. The county spent at least 1 million dollars to have me on probation, supervision, and confinement for 5 years. This was a total waste of my life and county resources. We cannot continue to create these types of carceral paths for youth who are more than able to transform and change their lives around. They need to be in a setting that is healthy and positive for their development. An environment that encourages positivity, reaffirms that they matter, where credible messenger like myself can work and build trust and relationships with young people. This means that the county must REJECT Barry J. Nidrof Juvenile Hall. It's time we stop demonizing youth and stop playing hot potato with them as if their lives and future didn't matter. EVERYONE has agreed that Barry J Nidorf is Not the place to be considered for SYTF. The BOS should not allow the Probation Department to continue to drag this process to their benefit and create an entire new JAIL DJJ facility within Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in which it offers no ability for youth to step down or be more closer and connected to his/her community. The county can paint the facility, make it look like camp snooky, nice with chairs and colorful walls but at the end of the day, it is still a JAIL FACILITY.</p> <p>The BOS should not break their commitment to not building and investing in new jails. Adapting and rendering to BJNJH is completely opposite to the Boards commitment of "Care First, Jails Last". The county should NOT invest in NEW JAILS. BE BOLD AND NOT AFRAID. BE BOLD, NOT AFRAID. BE BOLD, NOT AFRAID. THIS COULD BE ANYONES CHILDREN, INCLUDING YOURS.</p>
Kevin Woods	There is no way to reimagine this facility as this facility is not humane... has been sued by the DOJ for harm, still uses pepper spray, room confinement...
Kristin Kolbinski	
Kruti Parekh	Absolutely no. We cannot support the violence in Barry J. Nidorf for any child. No matter what. Follow the county's vision for Youth Justice Reimagined. for your child and mine.
Leah P Zeidler-Ordaz	I am a resident of the 5th District. I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's motion to make Barry J the permanent



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	Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board members to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J.
Madelyn Dieffenbach	
Madhu Chatwani	
Mainor X	I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's motion to make Barry J the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board members to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J. I Oppose Item 56 A.
Mara Ziegler	I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. I strongly oppose agenda item 56A, Kathryn Barger's counter motion to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.
Marlin S Quintero	
Maya H Kakani	
Mayra I Lira	I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's motion to make Barry J the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board members to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J.
Melissa Mercado	
Michael A Mendoza	Hi my name is Michael Mendoza and I live in Culver City district District #2. I am a member of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and I am calling to let you know that I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf. I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action.
Miguel Garcia	I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter-motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison-like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to



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KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

	Barry J Nidorf. This place is the worst and it's disappointing to see BARGER support this. Very disappointing.
Miguel E Casar	this is deeply troubling. Once again, playing politics and pandering to fear-mongering misinformation and assumptions about youth and families this policy co-copts the language of YJR. Investing millions in an institution (Barry J) whose culture and structure are so problematic is not only a waste of money, but offensive to the countless people that have given testimony, conducted research, and have spent their time trying to imagine and built sincere alternatives.
Milinda Kakani	There is no way Barry J can be reimaged. This is a garbage idea.
Nawaz Jadavji	
Nicholas Reiner	Hi, my name is Nicholas Reiner and I live in district 3, Pico-Robertson. I am a member of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and I am calling to let you know that I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.
Nisha Chatwani	
Olivia Shields	
Oscar Bonilla	<p>As someone that spent 14 years incarcerated and one of those years being spent in Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall in 2006, I want to express to this board why we must move with I Tem 10 and not allow the county to invest and built new jails for young people. I been home for less than 2 years and have seen how much community-based organizations really provide the tools and resources that are crucial for reentry. We need the LA M Odel all across and must stop playing with the lives of young people.</p> <p>I also strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.</p>
Paulette Dunn-Sanders	NO! IT HAS FAILED ON IT'S PROMISE TO YOUTH, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.
Phal Sok	This is a terrible idea. Probation has continually failed our young people as an institution and it's time to move towards caring for young people within their communities. The money that will be poured into this long-term could be better used for local community-based supports through service providers truly improving public safety.



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SHEILA KUEHL
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Rafael De La Torre	
Rocket J Garcia	Barry J cannot be "reimagined." The culture there is so damaging and that cannot be changed by throwing money at it. Shut it down.
Ronni V Cuccia	I do not think Barry J can be re-imagined.
Rose Brown	Hello, My name is Rose Brown, and I live in Los Angeles. I am a staff of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. Young people have been imprisoned in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to act. I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J. Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility (SYTF). We need to support the youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. Rehabilitative practices through education, mental health, community support, and in-reach is what we should focus on. As a formerly incarcerated individual, these practices have been beneficial in my own rehabilitation. These therapeutic practices are what will help increase community safety and wellness. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say 'NO' to Barry J Nidorf.
Sarah Rawson	
Sarah G Glenn-Leistikow	I strongly oppose this motion to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison-like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.
Sean Gage	We need to reform not lock away
Serafin Leon	
Serena Garcia	
sophia cristo	
Tauheedah Shakur	You can't reimagine a jail cell for children. Barry J Nidorf isn't safe
Tess Gibbs	
Varden Phan	We should not be investing in building new jails. This is not what LA County is about. We need real change. Listen to the directly impacted.
Vicente Sanchez	Hi my name is Vicente Sanchez and I live in the first district (SOLIS) I am a member of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and I am emailing to let you know that I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities. As someone that spent 18 years incarcerated, I can say that keeping someone in a box or cage won't resolve any issues, especially for young people. They need rehabilitation (emotional intelligence, cognitive behavior intervention, CGHA, and many other rehabilitative interactive

				programs that address real trauma. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.
			Vivian Wong	There is no way that Barry J can be reimagined. Making BJN the permanent site for SYTF is extremely harmful to young people's education and development.
			Viviane M Henry	Hi my name is Viviane Henry and I live in the 4th District, Janice Hahn. I am a member of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and I am calling to let you know that I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.
			Yesica Cambero	
			Zoe G Rawson	This is the worst possible option for community safety and accountability and healing for youth
		Item Total	97	
Grand Total			97	

March 13, 2022

Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County

RE: Board of Supervisors Meeting - March 15, 2022 Agenda Items 10 and 56A

OPPOSITION - Agenda Item 10

SUPPORT - Agenda Item 56A

Supervisors,

I'm a County resident of Supervisory District 5. We relocated to Santa Clarita in 1989, after experiencing crime in the San Fernando Valley. Our desire was to raise our family in a safe environment where we would not feel endangered while in our own home and surrounding community. It takes time to recover once you have been a victim, and the experience always remains with you. It doesn't go away, not ever.

Change happens, and it is important to embrace change for the **right** reasons. The juvenile justice of the past has had minimal success when it comes to rehabilitation to re-enter society. The push by those who have experienced the incarceration system are actively driving change. A balance of enhanced efforts for rehabilitation and protection of society must occur.

How can the cycle of repeat offenders and committing serious crimes against persons change? I believe accountability and consequences are necessary for people to learn from their choices and actions. I can only hope the new approach will prove to have a positive impact.

I support reimagining juvenile justice and implementing the LA Model in a thoughtful and practical manner. However, there are no guarantees for success of this new approach. Ongoing evaluation and adjustment of the new approach will be a necessity to ensure improvement in the County's efforts toward rehabilitation are achievable.

At a recent Public Safety Cluster meeting, Probation staff indicated other California Counties have inquired about LA County housing their DJJ population. My opinion is absolutely NOT at this time. Implement the programmatic activities of the LA Model, and focus on the LA County incarcerated population.

The cost of care for those persons being returned to Los Angeles County must be recognized as a burden to **actual** taxpayers. The JJCC-JJR Block Grant funding from the State of California is a line-item in the State's General Fund budget, almost exclusively funded by those individuals who actually pay income taxes.

I fully support the Probation Department's February 8, 2022 proposal to proceed with Barry J Nidorf as the most suitable permanent SYTF. The Department's presentation document illustrates the renovations to move forward to a state of the art facility. Both documents are included with Agenda Item 56A and should be thoroughly read by each member of the Board of Supervisors before voting on this important issue. Moving forward with Barry J as the permanent SYTF presents a win win for the incarcerated population and communities of Los Angeles County for the following reasons:

- Barry J can be reimagined into a high quality facility to help offenders prepare for re-entry into society
- There is plenty of space to meet capacity needs without impacting the current delivery of services to those already there
- It's centrally located - this is critical for DJJ families and service providers
- Proceeding with Barry J is the most fiscally prudent solution
- The changes at Barry J can be done timely

Moving forward with Camp Scott plain and simple does NOT make any sense

- The location isn't suitable to providing the necessary services due to distance
- It was built in the 1950's and is severely outdated and hasn't been maintained
- Reimagined, Scott can provide for a capacity of 40 - that's only 27% of what is needed
- Why spend even more tax payer dollars on facilities that don't meet capacity requirements?

The Probation Department and their service providers are professionals and subject matter experts. Listen to them. Support and embrace their experience, findings and proposal.

Regardless, renovation of Barry J is required by the State of California. How can we pass up the opportunity to do what is right for both the incarcerated population and the community at large?

As elected officials you are obligated to comply with the State legislation that is the impetus for your decision. The spirit and intent language of SB823's legislative purpose is to "protect society from the consequences of criminal activity".

I prevail upon each of you to vote NO on Item 10 and vote YES on Item 56A.

It's NOT about what Barry J has been, it's about what Barry J can become to serve the full complement of the DJJ population - make it happen, there is no acceptable excuse or rationalization NOT to.

Joy Ory

Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County

RE: Board of Supervisors Meeting - March 15, 2022 Agenda Items 10 and 56A

Supervisors,

I am an Angeleno, born and raised in this great county, with the only time living away being my service time in the U.S. military. Our family moved to Santa Clarita in 1989. It was a case of love at first sight for us and others in this new neighborhood. It just felt right. But lately things haven't felt so right in my beloved neighborhood.

I'm old enough to understand things change but that change should be channeled towards what's right. I say that in regards to plans to house very serious offenders at Camp Scott located located within measured feet of residential homes including school bus stops for children. We are not in favor of this location but we do offer an alternative.

We are in agreement with the County's own Probation Dept. which favors and proposes to proceed with a re-imagined Barry J Nidorf as the more suitable permanent SYTF. We should listen to the experts.

Barry J. can be re-imagined, it has plenty of available space to easily meet any capacity needs now and in the future; Barry J. Is centrally located, providing easy DJJ family visits and just as important, counsellor visits.

Compared to Barry J, Camp Scott does not fit the bill.

The capacity of Scott is FAR less than what the Probation Dept. identified as the need, Scott is much further creating more hardship on family visitors and importantly, Scott will cost much more to improve. This would be taxpayer money going down the drain.

Remember, our protection is in your hands. You are tasked by state law with our security and our children's security.

Another point, I hope I am wrong about this but after listening to various groups over a length of time it appears there is political pressure pushing for Scott and some with an attitude towards Santa Clarita residents of "Let's ram this down their throats". Again, I hope I'm wrong on that.

Let's think positive about this: A re-imagined Barry J is by far the better choice: now, for the future and fiscally.

Vote NO on item 10
Vote YES on item 56A

Tim Ory

Hi my name is Yesica Cambero and I live in Riverside. I am a member of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and I am calling to let you know that **I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities.** At the age of 17 I was incarcerated at BJNJH and the conditions were horrible and inhumane for a child. There were times that we were slammed down for 23 hours, phone calls to family were not allowed unless earned by cleaning however only the same people were chosen to participate to clean, staff was very disrespectful and treated children less than human. Units do not have a restroom in the rooms so staff will not open door on time which caused the children to go on themselves and then left there for hours without a shower. There was also no type of rehabilitative programs or any life skill classes in order to help these children upon their release. I had a boyfriend in the shu until who was beat up and left paralyzed for the rest of his life due to staff neglect. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. **I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility.** We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.

My family and I moved to 20117 Zimmerman Place in 1998, and we want to voice our concerns and opposition about turning camp Scott/Scudder into a Youth Treatment Facility.

Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar is a much better location. Not only is it closer to the freeway which allows easier and faster routes for family members to visit, which is at least 25 minutes each way, but there are numerous other reasons such as.

1. They are already there, while they spend most of their time in pre and post adjudication status.
2. Since they are already there, this option is least disruptive to their care and supervision.
3. Nidorf is being used until Campus Kilpatrick is updated. Why change it??????
4. Using Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall is the housing solution that makes the most sense from a practical and **FINANCIAL** perspective, due to the fact LA County and its board **MUST** renovate Barry J. Nidorf so that it's suitable to confine these minors, as declared by the CA Board of State and Community Corrections. If we use Nidorf we're not starting from ground Zero.

Why spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a facility that's **not** large enough and still **won't** work, when that money can be used to update Nidorf, again the place where the youth are already utilizing. You will be using Taxpayer's dollars to renovate one of these camps and we should have a say! Again, why would you spend hundreds of thousand of dollars at Camp Scott/Scudder which would be temporary, just to turn around and spend more of our tax dollars all over again to renovate Nidorf.

All youth with a juvenile justice case – not just DJJ youth – are currently housed at Nidorf and spend most of their time there. They spend years there, not months, just like DJJ youth will need to. So, selecting Nidorf benefits many more youth since they ALL would have access to a newly updated, trauma-informed facility designed just for them. Selecting Nidorf to house DJJ youth is a solution that works for the greater good.

I urge/beg you to PLEASE reconsider using Camp Scudder/Scott for housing these violent criminals. Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar is a much better location not Camp Scudder/Scott for so many reasons, especially **financially**.

Sincerely

Mark, Noreen Zack and Jake Tilton

20117 Zimmerman Pl

Santa Clarita, Ca 91390



City of
SANTA CLARITA

23920 Valencia Boulevard • Santa Clarita, California 91355-2196
Phone: (661) 259-2489 • FAX: (661) 259-8125
www.santa-clarita.com

March 14, 2022

Laurene Weste
Mayor

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Jason Gibbs
Mayor Pro Tem

Subject: Opposition to Item 10 and Support to Designating Barry J. Nidorf as
a Permanent Secure Youth Treatment Facility

Marsha McLean
Councilmember

Dear Chair Mitchell and Members of the Los Angeles County Board of
Supervisors:

Bill Miranda
Councilmember

On behalf of the Santa Clarita City Council (City Council), I am writing to
respectfully oppose Item 10 on the agenda for the March 15, 2022, Board of
Supervisors Regular Meeting and support the designation of Barry J. Nidorf
as a permanent Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) to serve juvenile
males who would have otherwise been under the custody of the Division of
Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

Cameron Smyth
Councilmember

It has been nearly one year since the City Council voted to oppose a proposal
that would designate Camp Scott as an SYTF and our position remains that
Camp Scott is egregiously unsuitable to serve juvenile serious offenders
formerly under the custody of the DJJ.

The scorecard evaluation, which summarized the amenities and suitability of
all licensed probation facilities within the County, identified several facilities
that scored better than Camp Scott across many factors, including Barry J.
Nidorf Juvenile Hall, Camp Rockey, and Los Padrinos. However, despite
Camp Scott receiving the only red evaluation out of all of the facilities
assessed for "Resiliency Potential Fire/Flood Hazard," the original
recommendation by the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Subcommittee (JJRBG) that Camp Scott serve as a permanent SYTF did not
change.

The inclusion of Camp Scott in the JJRBG recommendation and ultimately, in the recommendation made in Item 10, calls into question the integrity of the evaluation process and the County's commitment to ensure recommendations were made in the best interest of the youth served in the facilities and communities surrounding the facilities.

A facility that was built nearly 65 years ago, with limited renovations since its opening in 1958, Camp Scott's dilapidated conditions, historical use as a camp, and closure since March 2020 offers very little, if any, of the necessary amenities and infrastructure needed to adequately protect and rehabilitate juvenile serious offenders. Furthermore, the renovations required to Camp Scott are cost prohibitive, especially as there are other facilities that are more feasible due to their current conditions, use, and recently built or renovated infrastructure, including Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall.

As the County is committed to reimagining Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall while also lowering its juvenile justice footprint, designating Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall as the permanent SYTF reflects the goals and intent of the County in investing in true reformative rehabilitation programming and treatment at facilities that are in greatest need of reform. Furthermore, the County is already required to make significant enhancements to Barry J. Nidorf, in an effort to comply with a settlement agreement with the California Department of Justice. We agree that Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall needs to be reformed and therefore, with the existing resources dedicated in improving the facility, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall has the potential to becoming the blueprint on effectively transforming facilities to better rehabilitate juveniles.

Furthermore, it is critical to emphasize that following an exhaustive review of licensed probation facilities, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall has been recommended by the County Probation Department to serve as the permanent SYTF in a comprehensive report and proposal that was submitted to the Board of Supervisors on February 8, 2022. This report explicitly outlines how the Probation Department would collaborate with other subject matter experts in integrating the LA Model and Youth Justice Reimagined to transform the facility to provide trauma-informed services and programs are delivered to develop the skills needed for successful re-entry into the community. Additionally, the report provides a detailed plan that outlines the facilities existing capacity and amenities that make, a reformed, Barry J. Nidorf

Juvenile Hall the most feasible option to adequately rehabilitate juvenile serious offenders formerly under the custody of the DJJ.

Moreover, given Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall's location near Interstate 5, State Route 14, Interstate 210 and the Metrolink commuter train service, the facility is centrally located and easily accessible for County staff, visiting families, community-based organizations, and partner agencies. Additionally, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall has the existing County and community partnerships and 24/7 nursing care with Olive View – UCLA Medical Center within close proximity to the facility that are already serving juvenile serious offenders and have the training and experience necessary to continue to work with this population.

As such, designating Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and reforming the programming offered at the facility to better serve juveniles, is the best opportunity in ensuring the greatest level of stability and continuity in services for the DJJ transition.

Finally, contrary to the language in the motion on Item 10, and in particular numbered paragraph 1 in the directives, review and analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is required prior to adoption of this motion. The background states that the October 21, 2021, facility assessment concluded that Camps Scott, Paige, Afflerbaugh and Dorothy Kirby Center were feasible sites. The City of Santa Clarita (City) is on record with regard to its disagreement with this conclusion as it relates to Camp Scott. Furthermore, the City is also on record with regard to the JJRBG's conclusions that other sites in the County are not feasible. The Board of Supervisors, by this motion, adopts the recommendations of the JJRBG without undertaking any environmental evaluation of the actual feasibility of any of the sites. Thus, the Board of Supervisors is fully committing to and thus approving the selection of certain sites now by limiting the choice of alternatives once the CEQA review is returned by County staff. Furthermore, the motion directs staff to undertake CEQA with respect to the four sites and return with CEQA to *support* the designation—essentially directing the preparation of post hoc environmental justification for the project decisions being made in this motion.

As set forth in a leading CEB CEQA treatise, *Practice Under the California Environmental Quality Act* (emphasis added):

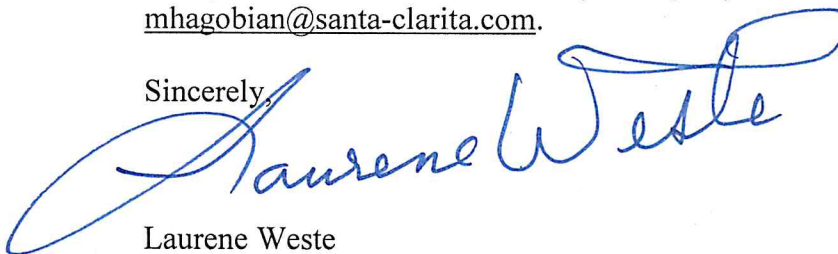
“CEQA applies when a public agency proposes to “approve” a project. (Pub Res C §21080(a); CEQA Guidelines § 15004; *Save Tara v City of W. Hollywood* (2008) 45 Cal.4th 116; *Saltonstall v City of Sacramento* (2015) 234 Cal.App.4th 549, 566; *RiverWatch v Olivenhain Mun. Water Dist.* (2009) 170 Cal.App.4th 1186.) The term “approval” refers to a public agency decision that **“commits the agency to a definite course of action in regard to a project.”** (CEQA Guidelines § 15352(a).”

“With respect to projects carried out by public agencies, **the CEQA Guidelines provide that agencies may not undertake actions that** could have a significant adverse effect on the environment, or **limit the choice of alternatives** or mitigation measures, **before complying with CEQA.** (CEQA Guidelines § 15004(b)(2).) **The term “approval” in the CEQA Guidelines is defined broadly so that an agency’s commitment to a “definite course of action” on a project is treated as an approval.** (CEQA Guidelines § 15352(a). Under this standard, an agency cannot formally approve a project, or commit itself to approve it, without complying with CEQA before doing so.”

The Board of Supervisors should defer any action on this motion until the CEQA analysis can be completed, that includes the environmental analysis of alternative sites.

Thank you for your consideration on this grave matter. We look forward to working with each of you in securing the most adequate resources and suitable facilities for the transition of those formerly under the custody of the DJJ. Should you require any additional information regarding our comments and requests included in this letter, please contact Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Analyst, at (661) 286-4057 or mhagobian@santa-clarita.com.

Sincerely,



Laurene Weste
Mayor

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

March 14, 2022

Page 5

LW:MH

s:\ms\masis\letters\LACBOS_Item 10 on Camp Scott_3.15.22

cc: Members of the City Council

Department of Youth and Community Restoration, California Health and
Human Services Agency

Los Angeles County JJRBG Subcommittee

Fesia Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer

Justice Deputies, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles County Probation Department

Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager

Frank Oviedo, Assistant City Manager

Leadership Team

Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Analyst

Jennifer Quan, League of California Cities

California Contract Cities Association

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son

Hi my name is Yesica Cambero and I live in Riverside. I am a member of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and I am calling to let you know that **I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities.** At the age of 17 I was incarcerated at BJNJH and the conditions were horrible and inhumane for a child. There were times that we were slammed down for 23 hours, phone calls to family were not allowed unless earned by cleaning however only the same people were chosen to participate to clean, staff was very disrespectful and treated children less than human. Units do not have a restroom in the rooms so staff will not open door on time which caused the children to go on themselves and then left there for hours without a shower. There was also no type of rehabilitative programs or any life skill classes in order to help these children upon their release. I had a boyfriend in the shu until who was beat up and left paralyzed for the rest of his life due to staff neglect. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. **I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's counter motion item 56a to make Barry J Nidorf the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility.** We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board member to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J Nidorf.

March 14, 2022

To: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
CC: Probation Oversight Commission
Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Subcommittee
Chief Probation Officer Gonzalez

RE: Public Comment for Item 56a: OPPOSED

“Education is the key to success. It opens doors for those who want to become a better person, and to make this happen we have to make sure they're getting the education they deserve.”

- Mainor Xuncax, Youth Policy Advocate at Arts for Healing and Justice Network (AHJN), who had been on juvenile probation for 4 years in LA County

As a coalition of youth advocacy organizations with expertise in education law, programming, and youth development, and informed by the lived experiences of our clients and formerly incarcerated colleagues, we write this letter to respond to recent County discussions regarding education for young people involved in the youth justice system.

On September 15, 2021, the Board of Supervisors voted to affirm the “L.A. Model” and expand services in Campus Kilpatrick. In the same motion, the Board directed County agencies to investigate and report back on several issues regarding education.¹ Meanwhile, the Probation Oversight Commission has been investigating juvenile detention facilities and recently issued the report [“Improving Educational Opportunities and Outcomes for Students in Juvenile Halls and Camps,”](#) based on the Commission’s firsthand visits to the County’s juvenile court schools.

We submit this letter to further the discussion in both of the above contexts and inform next steps toward creating meaningful educational opportunities for young people in the County’s care. We urge the Board, the Commission, and all County agencies involved to prioritize the education of young people. We hope you will work with us to:

1. End the incarceration of youth, because it is harmful to students’ education and well-being;

¹ L.A. Bd. of Supervisors, Motion Reaffirming and Expanding the LA Model (Sept. 15, 2021), <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/161709.pdf> [<https://perma.cc/S8EF-AYZK>].

2. Allow young people access to quality education and programming in secure facilities, to the extent a small few must be removed from their communities and placed in such facilities; and
3. Take steps to improve transparency and create community accountability mechanisms around education in secure facilities, which are critical to the success of this evolving system.

I. The County Must Significantly Decrease Detention, Which Disrupts and Harms Students' Education

“At the end of the day, it was an unhealthy environment, and I felt that.”

- Kevin Rodas, a youth leader with Arts for Healing and Justice Network (AHJN), on his experience in a County detention facility and court school.

Carceral settings are inherently punitive and counterproductive to youth development.² As such, our coalition envisions a future in which young people no longer experience incarceration. In affirming Youth Justice Reimagined, the County has similarly committed to a future where few young people are removed from their homes.³ However, the current reality is that judges, prosecutors, probation officers, and other court actors regularly detain young people. Thus, we must work together to confront the various disruptions and challenges young people face when incarcerated, including disconnection from and disruption to their education trajectory.

Any period of detention by Los Angeles County Probation (“Probation”) requires a young person to be disenrolled from their school in their community, causing multiple gaps in their education both as they enroll in Los Angeles County Office of Education (“LACOE”) juvenile court schools, and then again when they reenter their community. Despite the legal right to “immediate enrollment,” youth who are incarcerated often experience gaps before they are enrolled in LACOE juvenile court schools.⁴

² A 2014 study on the prevalence of abuse during incarceration in secure juvenile facilities determined that nearly all youth (96.8%) experienced some type of abuse (e.g., physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, denial of food, and excessive stays in solitary confinement) during incarceration. The study was based on data from a sample of formerly incarcerated young adults (n=62) in Southern California. See Carly B. Dierkhising et al., *Victims Behind Bars: A Preliminary Study of Abuse During Juvenile Incarceration and Post-Release Social and Emotional Functioning* 20 Psych., Pub. Pol’y, and L. 181 (2104), <https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000002>.

³ See <https://lacyouthjustice.org/>; L.A. Bd. of Supervisors, Youth Justice Reimagined: A New Model for Youth Justice in Los Angeles County (Double Motion 2012, Nov. 24, 2020), <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/150833.pdf#search=%22%22youth%20justice%20reimagined%22%22> [<https://perma.cc/7RY4-QSXE>].

⁴ This has been exacerbated during the Covid-19 pandemic, as young people are required to quarantine for a certain time period before they are enrolled in LACOE juvenile court schools (even though options such as remote learning could allow for immediate enrollment during any necessary quarantine period).

When the courts release these young people to the community, many students have to rely on legal assistance in order to enroll in their school of origin (which can be defined as the last school they attended prior to system involvement, or any school they attended in the last 15 months), or even another comprehensive local school. We have seen school districts turn many students away due to the stigma of system involvement, including pushing them out to an alternative school such as a continuation or community day school. These alternative settings segregate students from the comprehensive school populations. For many students, this segregation leads to disengagement, or worse, an inability to earn a high school diploma or GED.

Aside from experiencing these gaps in education, young people who are incarcerated are separated from their schools in the community, where school staff have had the most time to develop rapport and trust with them. Those young people, many of whom have experienced significant trauma and face challenges like learning disabilities, have to then form bonds and establish trust with new teachers in a short period of time. In these circumstances, even the most experienced, creative teachers struggle to create classroom environments where students can move beyond survival instincts and to a place of trust and learning. In court schools in California, teachers may be even less successful in engaging students because they are often credentialed and trained at a level that does not align with the educational needs of their high-school age students. Students who experienced incarceration share that other factors, such as the presence and power of probation officers and the constant churn of classmates, make it even harder to engage in the court school learning environment.

Replacing LACOE with another school district or charter school operator will not fix these underlying systemic issues. In order to improve education outcomes and work toward ending the school-to-prison track, youth should remain in their current, community-based schools to the greatest extent possible.

II. If Youth Are Incarcerated, They Have a Right to a Meaningful and Appropriate Education

“During my time, I not only experienced myself but also witnessed fellow classmates being handed passing grades for simply sitting quietly or not starting disturbances. Once they’re outside and have to do all these assignments that weren’t given to them before, they’re easily irritated and let it all go and give up. It’s not their fault.”

- Kevin Rodas, a youth leader with AHJN

“When I started going in and out of halls, placements and camp, I would see myself taking the same classes over and over or doing the same [schoolwork] packets. At Challenger, I was learning about World War II, and one year later at Kilpatrick, I was still learning about World War II. It was just book work. Whether I was in 9th grade or 12th grade - it was the same class.”

- Mainor Xuncax sharing his experience in Los Angeles County juvenile court schools

“I didn’t get enrolled in Algebra 2 or Geometry math classes when I was in juvenile hall. I hope real steps will be taken to improve the rigor of education and make sure youth don’t get cheated out of learning subjects they need for college or for careers in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.”

- Justus Jones, Youth Engagement Specialist at AHJN

As we work towards a model where young people are no longer incarcerated, for the small number of young people who may be ordered to secure facilities, LACOE and Probation must ensure students have access to quality education with robust programming options to support their growth and development. The environment and education services must also address the unique and significant needs of the court school population.

As such, the County must reject any proposals to use Barry J Nidorf, a facility that was declared “*unsuitable for youth habitation*” by the California BSCC in 2011, as the permanent location for Secure Track Youth. Our coalition supports Agenda Item #10 because Campus Kilpatrick’s cottages and classroom spaces can offer students a more rehabilitative environment conducive for living and learning. By leveraging Campus Kilpatrick, Dorothy Kirby Center, and Camp Scott and refusing to double down on its failing juvenile hall facilities—the County can reduce its carceral footprint and make progress towards the vision of Youth Justice Reimagined.

The Commission’s report also confirms what we have reported: LACOE and Probation are wholly failing to provide incarcerated students with the education and programming they require for appropriate youth development.⁵ LACOE’s own local testing data demonstrate that students in the halls and camps experience *decreases* in their basic math and English skills while incarcerated.⁶ Further, these schools often do not provide needed special education services (for example, services that are not

⁵ L.A. Cnty. Prob. Oversight Comm’n, Education Report: Improving Educational Opportunities and Outcomes for Students in Juvenile Halls and Camps (March 14, 2022), <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/POC22-0028.pdf> [https://perma.cc/NJ8K-SW2U].

⁶ 2019–20 Los Angeles County Office of Education Annual Report. According to pre/post test data, students in the halls experienced decreases in both math (-0.4 grade levels) and English (-0.1 grade levels) scores while detained. Students in the camps demonstrated decreases in math scores (-0.1 grade levels).

offered in juvenile court facilities, such as non-public school placements), and students receive fewer needed supports as a result.⁷

The County must do more to ensure Probation and LACOE collaborate to implement numerous overdue reforms, including offering the following:

- A-G and college preparatory courses to ensure the County’s incarcerated students have equal access to higher education as their non-justice-involved peers;
- Meaningful and consistent access to appropriate special education services not limited by the detention setting;
- Access to consistent and high quality mental health services including school-based mental health services such as Educationally Related Intensive Counseling Services (“ERICS”);
- Staff that is trauma informed;
- Access to academic intervention programs and remedial programs for students who are not working at or near grade level;
- Qualified teachers who care and respect students, exhibit cultural humility, reflect the racial/ethnic composition of the students, and who are appropriately credentialed to teach secondary education and single subjects;
- Formal inclusion of students, families, and community members in LACOE staff hiring decisions and processes to select candidates who can build genuine relationships with youth;
- Culturally relevant curriculum and training to support young people in secure facilities;
- Students should have consistent access to their education; they should not be removed from class or not taken to class for Probation staffing or other similar reasons;
- Classrooms that feel like school, not detention, to maximize learning for students; classrooms should be run by educators. Probation officers should minimize disruptions to education and should not be involved in classroom management or utilized for behavior interventions;
- Consistent access to education and programming through technology and virtual/hybrid opportunities for all students even during periods of quarantine or other similar situations;
- Frequent and ongoing opportunities for youth to participate in designing an educational program that serves their needs. This could be a youth council on education and

⁷ In our experience, LACOE routinely makes changes to Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for young people who are incarcerated to remove services that are not available in court schools. This practice has consequences outside of these facilities. IEPs altered to match the available services within the facility are the same IEPs that the youth carry with them when they transition to schools outside of those facilities — meaning that the students either require legal or other advocacy support to reinstate their services or will struggle with fewer services and supports than they had when they first entered the facility.

programming or a youth commissioner elected by peers to regularly meet with and give feedback to LACOE and Probation;

- Opportunities for parents and families to meaningfully participate in their students' education and programming;
- Frequent opportunities for youth to engage in various and interactive programming with community-based organizations ("CBOs") across a range of areas;
- Transparency to the public regarding the CBOs selected to provide programming;
- Financial literacy and other transition services;
- College opportunities including both community college (associate's degree) and four year college (bachelor's degree) options;
- Vocational or certificate programs in areas of interest to young people such as construction, barbering, food service, logistics, electrical, and others.

III. The County Must Increase Transparency and Community-Led Accountability

It is critical that decision making around and implementation of education services for youth who are incarcerated be transparent to stakeholders such as families and community based organizations that support these youth. Historically, LACOE has failed to provide community stakeholders with meaningful opportunities to provide input on education planning, has denied the public their right to provide input on those plans through submission of public comment, and has failed to incorporate community feedback in its planning. We urge the County not to repeat those same missteps in its handling of the education planning process as it moves forward.

Additionally, community-led workgroups, such as youth councils or community membership on oversight boards, are key accountability mechanisms to ensure the County is adequately monitoring and implementing its realignment plan, particularly with respect to education, and its overall plan to reimagine court school education. The County should put such mechanisms in place to ensure community members - particularly those who have directly experienced the juvenile justice system - play a key role in ensuring meaningful education services are available to students in an equitable manner.

Our coalition is eager to engage in further discussions and exploration of creative solutions on these matters.

Sincerely,

The Education Justice Coalition

ACLU of Southern California

Alliance for Children's Rights

Arts for Healing and Justice Network

Children's Defense Fund-CA

Loyola Law School Youth Justice and Education Clinic

National Center for Youth Law

14 March 2022

Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County

Regarding: Board of Supervisors Meeting on 15 March 2022, Agenda Items 10 and 56A

OPPOSITION to Item 10

SUPPORT of Item 56A

Supervisors,

I am a tax-paying resident of supervisory district 5 and have lived in Saugus for 26 years. The principal reason I moved here was the safety aspect of this city.

I am supportive of the rehabilitation efforts of juvenile justice system, however, it needs to take place while taking into account the safety and security of not only incarcerated youths, but also the surrounding population. In addition, any renovations required are being paid for by taxpayers and you have a responsibility to make sure our money is being spent in the most responsible manner and allowing for the most benefit.

I fully support the Probation Department's 8 February 2022 proposal to proceed with Barry J Nidorf as the most suitable permanent facility to house the incarcerated youth population. Some of the reasons for this are:

- Best possible centralized location with easy freeway access
- Lower costs to make it a high quality facility to best serve the needs of the proposed population
- The space allows for future capacity requirements

I strongly oppose using Camp Scott. Some of the reasons are:

- Location is inconvenient to service providers and families (poor freeway access, high traffic area)
- Old and outdated facilities would require significantly higher costs to update
- Capacity is too small to allow for future requirements
- Located in a known fire and flood hazard area

The probation department has stated that Camp Scott is not suitable. They are the subject experts.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on items 10 and vote YES on item 56A.

Joy Murakami

My family and I moved to 20117 Zimmerman Place in 1998, and we want to voice our concerns and opposition about turning camp Scott/Scudder into a Youth Treatment Facility.

Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar is a much better location. Not only is it closer to the freeway which allows easier and faster routes for family members to visit, which is at least 25 minutes each way, but there are numerous other reasons such as.

1. They are already there, while they spend most of their time in pre and post adjudication status.
2. Since they are already there, this option is least disruptive to their care and supervision.
3. Nidorf is being used until Campus Kilpatrick is updated. Why change it??????
4. Using Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall is the housing solution that makes the most sense from a practical and **FINANCIAL** perspective, due to the fact LA County and its board **MUST** renovate Barry J. Nidorf so that it's suitable to confine these minors, as declared by the CA Board of State and Community Corrections. If we use Nidorf we're not starting from ground Zero.

Why spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a facility that's **not** large enough and still **won't** work, when that money can be used to update Nidorf, again the place where the youth are already utilizing. You will be using Taxpayer's dollars to renovate one of these camps and we should have a say! Again, why would you spend hundreds of thousand of dollars at Camp Scott/Scudder which would be temporary, just to turn around and spend more of our tax dollars all over again to renovate Nidorf.

All youth with a juvenile justice case – not just DJJ youth – are currently housed at Nidorf and spend most of their time there. They spend years there, not months, just like DJJ youth will need to. So, selecting Nidorf benefits many more youth since they ALL would have access to a newly updated, trauma-informed facility designed just for them. Selecting Nidorf to house DJJ youth is a solution that works for the greater good.

I urge/beg you to PLEASE reconsider using Camp Scudder/Scott for housing these violent criminals. Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar is a much better location not Camp Scudder/Scott for so many reasons, especially **financially**.

Sincerely

Mark, Noreen Zack and Jake Tilton

20117 Zimmerman Pl

Santa Clarita, Ca 91390



City of
SANTA CLARITA

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March 14, 2022

Laurene Weste
Mayor

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Jason Gibbs
Mayor Pro Tem

Subject: Opposition to Item 10 and Support to Designating Barry J. Nidorf as
a Permanent Secure Youth Treatment Facility

Marsha McLean
Councilmember

Dear Chair Mitchell and Members of the Los Angeles County Board of
Supervisors:

Bill Miranda
Councilmember

On behalf of the Santa Clarita City Council (City Council), I am writing to
respectfully oppose Item 10 on the agenda for the March 15, 2022, Board of
Supervisors Regular Meeting and support the designation of Barry J. Nidorf
as a permanent Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) to serve juvenile
males who would have otherwise been under the custody of the Division of
Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

Cameron Smyth
Councilmember

It has been nearly one year since the City Council voted to oppose a proposal
that would designate Camp Scott as an SYTF and our position remains that
Camp Scott is egregiously unsuitable to serve juvenile serious offenders
formerly under the custody of the DJJ.

The scorecard evaluation, which summarized the amenities and suitability of
all licensed probation facilities within the County, identified several facilities
that scored better than Camp Scott across many factors, including Barry J.
Nidorf Juvenile Hall, Camp Rockey, and Los Padrinos. However, despite
Camp Scott receiving the only red evaluation out of all of the facilities
assessed for "Resiliency Potential Fire/Flood Hazard," the original
recommendation by the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Subcommittee (JJRBG) that Camp Scott serve as a permanent SYTF did not
change.

The inclusion of Camp Scott in the JJRBG recommendation and ultimately, in the recommendation made in Item 10, calls into question the integrity of the evaluation process and the County's commitment to ensure recommendations were made in the best interest of the youth served in the facilities and communities surrounding the facilities.

A facility that was built nearly 65 years ago, with limited renovations since its opening in 1958, Camp Scott's dilapidated conditions, historical use as a camp, and closure since March 2020 offers very little, if any, of the necessary amenities and infrastructure needed to adequately protect and rehabilitate juvenile serious offenders. Furthermore, the renovations required to Camp Scott are cost prohibitive, especially as there are other facilities that are more feasible due to their current conditions, use, and recently built or renovated infrastructure, including Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall.

As the County is committed to reimagining Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall while also lowering its juvenile justice footprint, designating Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall as the permanent SYTF reflects the goals and intent of the County in investing in true reformative rehabilitation programming and treatment at facilities that are in greatest need of reform. Furthermore, the County is already required to make significant enhancements to Barry J. Nidorf, in an effort to comply with a settlement agreement with the California Department of Justice. We agree that Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall needs to be reformed and therefore, with the existing resources dedicated in improving the facility, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall has the potential to becoming the blueprint on effectively transforming facilities to better rehabilitate juveniles.

Furthermore, it is critical to emphasize that following an exhaustive review of licensed probation facilities, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall has been recommended by the County Probation Department to serve as the permanent SYTF in a comprehensive report and proposal that was submitted to the Board of Supervisors on February 8, 2022. This report explicitly outlines how the Probation Department would collaborate with other subject matter experts in integrating the LA Model and Youth Justice Reimagined to transform the facility to provide trauma-informed services and programs are delivered to develop the skills needed for successful re-entry into the community. Additionally, the report provides a detailed plan that outlines the facilities existing capacity and amenities that make, a reformed, Barry J. Nidorf

Juvenile Hall the most feasible option to adequately rehabilitate juvenile serious offenders formerly under the custody of the DJJ.

Moreover, given Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall's location near Interstate 5, State Route 14, Interstate 210 and the Metrolink commuter train service, the facility is centrally located and easily accessible for County staff, visiting families, community-based organizations, and partner agencies. Additionally, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall has the existing County and community partnerships and 24/7 nursing care with Olive View – UCLA Medical Center within close proximity to the facility that are already serving juvenile serious offenders and have the training and experience necessary to continue to work with this population.

As such, designating Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and reforming the programming offered at the facility to better serve juveniles, is the best opportunity in ensuring the greatest level of stability and continuity in services for the DJJ transition.

Finally, contrary to the language in the motion on Item 10, and in particular numbered paragraph 1 in the directives, review and analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is required prior to adoption of this motion. The background states that the October 21, 2021, facility assessment concluded that Camps Scott, Paige, Afflerbaugh and Dorothy Kirby Center were feasible sites. The City of Santa Clarita (City) is on record with regard to its disagreement with this conclusion as it relates to Camp Scott. Furthermore, the City is also on record with regard to the JJRBG's conclusions that other sites in the County are not feasible. The Board of Supervisors, by this motion, adopts the recommendations of the JJRBG without undertaking any environmental evaluation of the actual feasibility of any of the sites. Thus, the Board of Supervisors is fully committing to and thus approving the selection of certain sites now by limiting the choice of alternatives once the CEQA review is returned by County staff. Furthermore, the motion directs staff to undertake CEQA with respect to the four sites and return with CEQA to *support* the designation—essentially directing the preparation of post hoc environmental justification for the project decisions being made in this motion.

As set forth in a leading CEB CEQA treatise, *Practice Under the California Environmental Quality Act* (emphasis added):

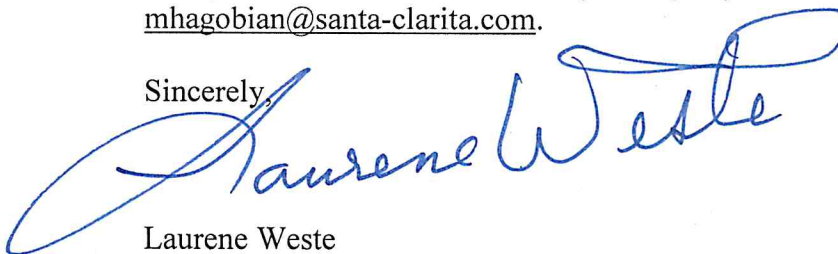
“CEQA applies when a public agency proposes to “approve” a project. (Pub Res C §21080(a); CEQA Guidelines § 15004; *Save Tara v City of W. Hollywood* (2008) 45 Cal.4th 116; *Saltonstall v City of Sacramento* (2015) 234 Cal.App.4th 549, 566; *RiverWatch v Olivenhain Mun. Water Dist.* (2009) 170 Cal.App.4th 1186.) The term “approval” refers to a public agency decision that **“commits the agency to a definite course of action in regard to a project.”** (CEQA Guidelines § 15352(a).”

“With respect to projects carried out by public agencies, **the CEQA Guidelines provide that agencies may not undertake actions that** could have a significant adverse effect on the environment, or **limit the choice of alternatives** or mitigation measures, **before complying with CEQA.** (CEQA Guidelines § 15004(b)(2).) **The term “approval” in the CEQA Guidelines is defined broadly so that an agency’s commitment to a “definite course of action” on a project is treated as an approval.** (CEQA Guidelines § 15352(a). Under this standard, an agency cannot formally approve a project, or commit itself to approve it, without complying with CEQA before doing so.”

The Board of Supervisors should defer any action on this motion until the CEQA analysis can be completed, that includes the environmental analysis of alternative sites.

Thank you for your consideration on this grave matter. We look forward to working with each of you in securing the most adequate resources and suitable facilities for the transition of those formerly under the custody of the DJJ. Should you require any additional information regarding our comments and requests included in this letter, please contact Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Analyst, at (661) 286-4057 or mhagobian@santa-clarita.com.

Sincerely,



Laurene Weste
Mayor

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

March 14, 2022

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LW:MH

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cc: Members of the City Council

Department of Youth and Community Restoration, California Health and
Human Services Agency

Los Angeles County JJRBG Subcommittee

Fesia Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer

Justice Deputies, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles County Probation Department

Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager

Frank Oviedo, Assistant City Manager

Leadership Team

Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Analyst

Jennifer Quan, League of California Cities

California Contract Cities Association

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son

I strongly support agenda item #10 by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl to designate Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott as the permanent Secure Youth Track Facilities. Young people have been stuck in Barry J for too long, and the Board needs to take action. I strongly oppose Kathryn Barger's motion to make Barry J the permanent Secure Youth Track Facility. We need to support these youth, not invest millions of dollars more into a youth prison like Barry J. I urge the Board members to support Youth Justice Reimagined and say NO to Barry J. **I Oppose Item 56 A.**